

WEEKLY ABSTRACT OF SANITARY REPORTS.

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Washington, D. C., January 10, 1890.

Abstract of Domestic and Foreign Sanitary Reports received during the week ended January 10, 1890, published in accordance with section 4, Act of Congress, approved April 29, 1878.

UNITED STATES.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

Influenza.

BOSTON, MASS.—January 4, 1890. The health officer reports that “influenza is still very prevalent.”

NEWTON, MASS.—January 4, 1890. The clerk of the board of health reports that “la grippe is raging here as elsewhere, and its complications with other diseases are peculiar and quite fatal, although in itself it does not seem to be fatal.” He reports “one death from pulmonary collapse caused by the epidemic influenza attacking a child having the whooping-cough.”

CANTON, OHIO.—January 3, 1890. The health officer states that “la grippe in a mild form is prevalent, with no deaths from it as yet.”

TOLEDO, OHIO.—January 3, 1890. The health officer reports that “there is quite a large amount of la grippe—impossible to estimate—several hundred, probably.”

PORTLAND, ME.—January 4, 1890. The health officer reports “considerable influenza, which has not yet increased our death rate.”

NEWPORT, R. I.—January 2, 1890. The executive officer of the board of health says that the prevailing disease is “la grippe—lots of it. Seven of the police force out of 34 sick with it.”

Typhus fever.

The secretary of the State board of health of New York states that six cases of typhus fever have occurred among immigrants who arrived in New York December 5 in the steamship “Westernland.” The steerage passengers of the “Westernland” have scattered in various directions.

By request from this Bureau the superintendent of Castle Garden furnishes the following list of places to which these immigrants were sent:

Cincinnati, Ohio; Chicago, Ill.; Providence, R. I.; Danville, Ill.; Peru, Ill.; Hartford, Conn.; Scranton, Pa.; Coalbrook, Pa.; St. Louis, Mo.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Buffalo, N. Y.; Brooklyn, N. Y.; Milwaukee, Wis.; New City, Kans.; Blackhawk, Colo.; Findlay, Ohio; Toledo, Ohio; Lockport, Ill.; Butler, Pa.; Norway, Mich.; Braidwood, Ill.; Glencoe, N. Y.; Boston, Mass.; Utica, N. Y.; Lima, Ohio; McDonald, Pa.; Escanaba, Mich.; New Orleans, La.; Wichita Falls, Tex.; Hontzdale, Pa.; Hasting, Ohio; San Francisco, Cal.; Hudson, N. Y.; Blossburg, Pa.; Cleveland, Ohio; Creighton, Pa.; Rushville, Ind.; Waukesha, Wis.; New Brighton, N. Y.; Norwood, Minn.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Philipsburg, Pa.; Newark, N. J.; Detroit, Mich.; Newburg, N. Y.; Trenton, N. J.; Elmira, N. Y.; Madison, Ind.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Vinton, Iowa; Paterson, N. J.; Atkinson, Wis.; Tarentum, Pa.; Edwardville, Ill.; Bunn, Kans.; Bluffton, Ohio; College Point, N. Y.

Reports of States, and Yearly and Monthly Reports of Cities.

MICHIGAN.—Week ending December 28, 1889. Reports to the State board of health, Lansing, from 47 observers, indicate that diarrhoea and erysipelas increased, and inflammation of brain, inflammation of bowels, remittent fever, enteric fever, scarlet fever, and small-pox decreased in area of prevalence.

Diphtheria was reported present at 30 places.

Scarlet fever decreased by 28 per cent., and was reported at 18 places.

Enteric fever was reported at 19 places.

Measles increased by 38 per cent., and was reported at 11 places.

Small-pox was reported at Muskegon.

During the four weeks ended December 28, 1889, 197 reports were received. For the month of December, 1889, compared with the preceding month, the reports indicate that pneumonia, inflammation of kidneys, measles, whooping-cough, inflammation of brain, and small-pox increased, and that remittent fever, scarlet fever, typhoid fever, typho-malarial fever, dysentery, and puerperal fever decreased in prevalence.

Compared with the average for the month of December in the three years 1886-1888, inflammation of kidneys, measles, whooping-cough, inflammation of brain, and small-pox were more prevalent, and remittent fever, typho-malarial fever, dysentery, membranous croup, cerebro-spinal meningitis, cholera morbus, and cholera infantum were less prevalent in December, 1889.

Diphtheria was reported present in Michigan in the month of December, 1889, at 57 places, scarlet fever at 64 places, enteric fever at 57 places, measles at 22 places, and small-pox at 2 places.

Reports from all sources show diphtheria reported at 12 places less, scarlet fever at 7 places less, enteric fever at 26 places less, and measles at 4 places more, in the month of December, 1889, than in the preceding month.

NORTH CAROLINA.—Month of November, 1889. Reports to the State board of health, Wilmington, from 21 towns, having an aggregate population of 116,000, show a total of 130 deaths; including enteric fever, 6; diphtheria, 2; and whooping-cough, 2.

RHODE ISLAND—*Newport*.—Year, 1889. Population, 23,000. Total number of deaths during the year, 319; including 5 from the United States training-ship New Hampshire. The deaths included croup, 1; diphtheria, 9; enteric fever, 7; and diarrhœa, 2. Ten of the deaths were among the transient or non-resident population, estimated at 10,000 for four summer months. The executive officer of the board of health says:

Five of the seven deaths from typhoid fever were from United States training-ship New Hampshire, and while included in our death rate, can not be charged to us, for of course the ship is not under our jurisdiction; and although the board of examiners said that typhoid was prevalent in Newport, in their report, the fact is that there has been less typhoid fever than usual in this city, and we dare to say, less than in any city of its size this side of Mason and Dixon's line. * * *

VIRGINIA—*Lynchburg*.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 25,000. Total deaths, 34. None from contagious diseases. Three cases of enteric fever and 1 of diphtheria were reported during the month.

Petersburg.—Month of December, 1889. Population, 25,000. Total deaths, 38; including enteric fever, 1.

FOREIGN.

(Reports received through the Department of State and other channels.)

GREAT BRITAIN—Scotland.—The deaths registered in eight principal towns during the week ended December 21 corresponded to an annual rate of 26.1 a thousand of the population, which is estimated at 1,314,274. The lowest mortality was recorded in Greenock, viz, 12.0, and the highest in Glasgow, viz, 29.9, a thousand. The aggregate number of deaths registered from all causes was 667, including measles, 26; scarlet fever, 12; diphtheria, 8; whooping-cough, 27; fever, 6; and diarrhoea, 9.

During the month of November, 1889, there were 2,216 deaths registered in these towns, of which 43 per cent. were of children under five years of age. Miasmatic diseases causes 215 deaths; whooping-cough, 56; fevers, 27; measles, 48; scarlatina, 37; and diphtheria, 45.

Gibraltar.—Influenza.—The following telegram has been received :

GIBRALTAR, *January 3, 1890.*

Secretary BLAINE, *Washington:*

Tangier quarantined. Influenza on board. Stormy.

SPRAGUE.

BUENOS AYRES.—Month of October, 1889. There were 1,533 deaths registered during the month, in a population of 532,497, including small-pox, 18; enteric fever, 36; scarlet fever, 3, and diphtheria, 9. The prevailing diseases were diphtheria and enteric fever.

CUBA—Havana.—Four deaths from yellow fever were registered during the week ended December 26, 1889.

BRAZIL—Ceara.—Ninety-eight deaths were registered during the month ended November 30, 1889, in a population of 33,000. None from contagious diseases. The United States consul, in his report, states that the increase in the population from 29,000 to 33,000 is caused by the return of famine-stricken people who left the province to find work elsewhere, but were unsuccessful.

DENMARK—Copenhagen.—The United States consul reports, under date of December 14, that “the influenza now generally prevailing in Europe has also reached Copenhagen, where it appears in rather a mild form.”

Cholera in Mesopotamia—Letter from Dr. Gabuzzi, dated Constantinople, December 5, 1889.

[Translated for this Bureau from the *Journal d'Hygiene*, Paris, of December 19, 1889.]

The latest reports of the cholera epidemic in Mesopotamia are as follows :

The epidemic which so suddenly broke out in Chatra and Bassora

in the month of July last, and which since that time has gradually invaded the entire plateau watered by the Tigris and the Euphrates as far as the city of Mossoul, seems to have been as suddenly arrested at that point.

Is it the effect of the season, the cold, snow, and difficulty of communications? Or must we attribute this result to the activity in quarantine regulations, sanitary cordons, etc.; in a word, to prophylactic measures, as easy to proclaim as they are utopian in their practical realization.

Confronted by such questions, Europe, seriously menaced, as she certainly is, seems to me to display an indifference of which, later, she may have reason to repent.

At the present moment the condition of affairs in Mesopotamia is as follows: Telegrams from Mossoul, Seleymania, Rajet, Bedra, and Diarbekir, dated December 6, 8, and 10, pronounce the sanitary condition of these localities as satisfactory.

The last case of cholera occurred at Bassora on November 24, 1889, and at Mossoul December 1, 1889.

The influenza.

BY DR. DE PIETRA SANTA.

[Abstract translated for this Bureau from the *Journal d'Hygiene*, Paris, December 19, 1889.]

According to Leon Colin, the rapid spread of epidemics of influenza gives us a reason for their brevity, even when they are pandemic.

In such cases we see the whole of Europe attacked within six weeks, and the entire surface of the earth overrun in six months. Under these conditions, he adds, the contagiousness of the disease is inadmissible.

The rapidity of its march, its simultaneous appearance in vast and widely separated regions, the fact that it travels with equal rapidity in sparsely as in densely populated districts, all go to show that it is not contagious.

Furthermore the disease seems to be independent of telluric influences, inasmuch as it has been observed to occur on vessels having no communications with the land, even entire squadrons having been affected, as instanced in the case of the English and Belgian fleets during the epidemic of 1780.

To us it appears that the cause of the epidemics of influenza lies in the atmosphere. We see no other pathogenic agent whose influences are general or mobile enough to correspond with the peculiar features of an epidemic of "la grippe."

Scientific opinions differ widely as to what particular atmospheric conditions are favorable to the disease. Nothing certain is known. Professor Zdekauer, of St. Petersburg, believes that the influenza is a precursor to an epidemic of cholera and states that he has observed this to be the case in four different instances; but it seems to us that this view is incorrect.

Infectious origin of the tetanus of new-born infants.

[Translated for this Bureau from *La Pratique Medicale*, Paris, France, December 17, 1889.]

M. Richelot presents a report on a fact communicated by M. Loppe to the society. It concerns a child seized a few days after its birth with tetanus, to which it was not slow in succumbing.

M. Loppe was led by this case to study the pathogenesis of tetanus. He found it necessary to eliminate the opinion of Parrot, which attributes tetanus in new-born infants to athrepsia. The little patient in question was very vigorous.

In favor of the equine origin of tetanus the following fact should be noted: At a distance of 150 feet from the child's home there was a stable in which a horse died of tetanus a short time previously. Bacteriological examination made with stable-dust gave only negative results. But near the house in which the child fell ill is a pond of stagnant water. A fact worthy of note is that the clothing of the infant was washed in this pond.

Inoculations practised on guinea-pigs with the spinal marrow of the child did not give rise to tetaniform accidents. Inoculations with the mud of the pond produced, on the contrary, crises of tetanus.

The cultures demonstrated the presence of the fine bacilli, which are regarded as being peculiar to tetanus.

The author concludes, then, in favor of the telluric origin of the case of tetanus observed by him.

The tetanus of new-born infants has the same origin as that of adults. In the nursing infant, as in the man, it is an infectious disease.

MORTALITY TABLE—FOREIGN CITIES.

| Cities. | Week ended. | Estimated popula- tion. | Total deaths from all causes. | Deaths from— | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|
| | | | | Cholera. | Yellow fever. | Small-pox. | Typhus fever. | Enteric fever. | Scarlet fever. | Diphtheria. | Measles. | Whooping-cough. |
| London..... | Dec. 14..... | 5,642,015 | 2,245 | | | | | 15 | 17 | 40 | 43 | |
| Paris..... | Dec. 14..... | 2,260,945 | 1,188 | | | | | 51 | 2 | 20 | 17 | 13 |
| Calcutta..... | Nov. 16..... | 433,219 | 263 | 20 | | 3 | | | | | | |
| Rio de Janeiro..... | | 350,000 | 304 | 8 | 30 | 8 | 3 | | | | | |
| Copenhagen..... | Dec. 14..... | 307,000 | 132 | | | | | | 2 | 5 | | |
| Munich..... | Nov. 23..... | 281,000 | 115 | | | | 1 | | | 11 | | |
| Munich..... | Nov. 30..... | 281,000 | 178 | | | | 1 | | | 13 | | |
| Munich..... | Dec. 7..... | 281,000 | 123 | | | | | | 1 | 9 | | |
| Munich..... | Dec. 14..... | 281,000 | 158 | | | | | | 1 | 6 | | |
| Edinburgh..... | Nov. 16..... | 266,900 | 106 | | | | | | | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| Edinburgh..... | Nov. 23..... | 266,900 | 104 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | |
| Edinburgh..... | Nov. 30..... | 266,900 | 113 | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 13 | | 3 |
| Palermo..... | Dec. 14..... | 250,000 | 102 | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Bristol..... | Dec. 14..... | 229,361 | 90 | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| Bristol..... | Dec. 21..... | 229,361 | 103 | | | | | | | | | |
| Trieste..... | Dec. 14..... | 158,054 | 96 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 5 | |
| Stuttgart..... | Dec. 21..... | 125,510 | 40 | | | | | | | | | |
| Pernambuco..... | Nov. 26..... | 120,000 | 58 | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | |
| Pernambuco..... | Dec. 3..... | 120,000 | 61 | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| Pernambuco..... | Dec. 10..... | 120,000 | 70 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | |
| Havre..... | Dec. 14..... | 112,074 | 63 | | | | | 6 | | | | |
| Catania..... | Dec. 16..... | 108,000 | 50 | | | | | | 3 | 1 | | 1 |
| Leghorn..... | Dec. 15..... | 103,287 | 53 | | | | | | | | | |
| Leith..... | Nov. 16..... | 76,400 | 20 | | | | | | | | | |
| Leith..... | Nov. 23..... | 76,400 | 23 | | | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | | |
| Leith..... | Nov. 30..... | 76,400 | 26 | | | | | 1 | 5 | 1 | | |
| Mayence..... | Dec. 14..... | 65,802 | 32 | | | | | | 1 | 6 | | |
| Gibraltar..... | Dec. 15..... | 23,681 | 5 | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| Kingston, Can..... | Dec. 27..... | 18,284 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Kingston, Can..... | Jan. 3..... | 18,284 | 9 | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Thomas..... | Nov. 29..... | 15,500 | 16 | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Thomas..... | Dec. 6..... | 13,500 | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Thomas..... | Dec. 13..... | 13,500 | 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Thomas..... | Dec. 20..... | 13,500 | 7 | | | | | | | | | |

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